

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 77TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1992-1996) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON THURSDAY, 29TH FEBRUARY, 1996

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (72)

Speaker (1)

The Hon. Derek C. Jagan, S.C., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the
National Assembly

Members of the Government - People's Progressive Party/Civic (42)

The Hon. Samuel A. Hinds, M.P., Prime Minister

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Senior Minister of
Agriculture (Leader of the House)

The Hon. S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P., Senior Minister of Home Affairs
(Government Chief Whip)

The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P., Senior Minister in the Ministry
of Public Works and Communications

*The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth Bisnauth, M.P., Senior Minister of
Education and Cultural Development

*The Hon. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and
Minister of Legal Affairs

*The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Senior Minister of Labour,
Human Services and Social Security

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Senior Minister of Foreign
Affairs (Absent-on leave)

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Senior Minister of Health

The Hon. M. Shree Chan, M.P., Senior Minister of Trade, Tourism
and Industry (Absent)

*The Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Senior Minister of Finance

Mrs. Janet Jagan, O.E., M.P.

The Hon. Clinton C. Collymore, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture

The Hon. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human
Services and Social Security

*The Hon. F. Vibert DeSouza, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Local Government

*The Hon. George E. Fung-On, M.P., Minister in the Office of the President

The Hon. Moses V. Nagamootoo, M.P., Senior Minister of Local Government

*Non-elected Member

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Mr. Cyril C. Belgrave, M.P.
 Mr. Fazil M. Ali, M.P.
 Mr. Husman Alli, M.P.
 Mr. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P.
 Mr. Komal Chand, M.P.
 Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, M.P. (Absent-on leave)
 Dr. Hughley H. Hanoman, M.P.
 Mrs. Una A. James, M.P.
 Mr. Alston A. Kissoon, M.P.
 Dr. Moti Lall, M.P.
 Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.
 Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.
 Mr. Lawrence E. Rodney, M.P.
 Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P.
 Mr. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P.
 Mr. Reuben A. Gilbert, M.P.
 Mr. Edward DaSilva, M.P.
 Mr. Khadim Bacchus, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs)
 Mr. Samad A. Baksh, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam) (Absent)
 Mr. Harrinarine Baldeo, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
 Mr. Joseph DeSouza, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)
 Mr. Eugene La Cruz, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo) (Absent)
 Mr. Bagot Paul, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent)
 Mr. Kum Karan Ramdas, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
 Mr. Ramrattan, M.P., a/k Balkarran (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/
 West Demerara)

Members of the Minority (29)

(i) People's National Congress (26)

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Minority Leader
 Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.
 Dr. Patrick L. McKenzie, A.A., M.P., Chief Whip
 Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P. (Absent)
 Dr. Kenneth F.S. King, M.P.
 Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P.
 Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P. (Absent-on leave)
 Miss Amna Ally, M.P.
 Miss Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P.
 Mr. Arthur A. Alexander, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
 Mr. Simon H. Ng-See-Quan, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. David Subnauth, M.P. (Absent-on leave)
 Mr. Reynold N. David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
 Mr. M. Idris Deen, M.P.
 Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad, M.P.
 Mrs. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, M.P.
 Mr. Kenrick Tyndall, M.P.
 Mr. Phillip Bynoe, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent-on leave)
 Mr. Andy Gouveia, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Hukumchand, M.P., a/k Parag
 Miss Joan C. Richards, M.P.
 Mr. John A. Fredericks, M.P.
 Mr. Ivan Peters, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
 Mr. Hubert K.H. Hyman, M.P.
 Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P. (Absent-on leave)

(ii) Working People's Alliance (2)

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, M.P.

Mr. Matheson Williams, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs) (Absent)

(iii) The United Force (1)

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.

OFFICERS

Mr. Frank A. Narain, A.A., Clerk of the National Assembly

Mr. Sherlock E. Isaacs, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 2.00 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Resignation of Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P.

The Speaker announced that he had received a letter dated 22nd February, 1996, from Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, resigning his seat in the National Assembly, with effect from 1st March, 1996.

With his resignation, Mr. Bernard would, in accordance with paragraph (1)(a) of article 156 of the Constitution, vacate his seat in the Assembly.

The Speaker stated that, in accordance with section 99A of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 1:03, he had called upon the representative of the list of candidates in which Mr. Bernard's name was included, to further extract from the said list the name of a person to fill the vacancy in the Assembly.

The Speaker, on behalf of Members and himself, extended good wishes to Mr. Bernard.

(ii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to the following Members for that day's sitting:

Mr. Clement Rohee,
Mrs. Shirley Edwards,
Mr. Dunstan Barrow,
Mr. David Subnauth, and
Mr. Phillip Bynoe.

(iii) Death of Office Assistant's Father

The Speaker, on behalf of Members and himself, extended deep sympathy to Office Assistant, Mr. Wayne Adams, on the recent death of his father.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.-

(1) By the Senior Minister of Education and Cultural Development:

Annual Report of the Ministry of Education and Cultural Development for the year 1993.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Senior Minister of Finance:

Financial Paper No. 1/1996 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$596,291,470, for the period ended 31st December, 1995 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.

(Circulated)

In accordance with Standing Order No. 68(1), the Minister named Thursday, 14th March, 1996, as the day for the consideration of the Financial Paper.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Presentation and First Reading

(1) TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1996 - Bill No. 5/1996

The Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the
Town and Country Planning Act.

(2) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BILL 1996 - Bill No. 6/1996

The Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security , on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to afford protection in cases involving domestic violence by the granting of a protection order; to provide the police with powers of arrest where a domestic violence offence occurs and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - SYMPATHY ON DEATH OF MR. EARL MAXWELL GLADSTONE WILSON, O.R.

The Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House) moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly record its deep regret at the death of Mr. Earl Maxwell Gladstone Wilson, O.R., and pay tribute to the distinguished service which he rendered to Guyana and to the

Parliament in his capacity as a Member of Parliament and as Minister of Communications;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this Assembly direct that expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing family and relatives.

(Notice Paper No. 95 (M75 Govt 62) published 21.2.96)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

The Minority Leader

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

Mrs. Janet Jagan.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

ITEM 2 - SYMPATHY ON DEATH OF MR. MOHAMED KASIM, C.C.H.

The Minority Leader moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly record its deep regret at the death of Mr. Mohamed Kasim, C.C.H., and pay tribute to the dedicated and distinguished service which he rendered to Guyana and to the Parliament in his capacity as a Member of Parliament and as Minister of Works and Hydraulics, Minister of Communications and Minister of State for Agriculture;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this Assembly direct that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his bereaved family and other relatives.

(Notice Paper No.96 (M76 Opp 13) published 21.2.96)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

The Senior Minister of Agriculture

(Leader of the House)

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine

Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

ITEM 3 - SYMPATHY ON DEATH OF MRS. ROSE ISABELLA SEMPLE

Dr. Patrick McKenzie moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly record its deep regret at the death of Mrs. Rose Isabella Semple and pay tribute to the dedicated and distinguished service which she rendered to Guyana and to the Parliament in her capacity as a Member of Parliament;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this Assembly direct that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to her bereaved family and other relatives.

(Notice Paper No.97 (M77 Opp 14) published 21.2.96)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

The Senior Minister of Agriculture
(Leader of the House)
Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine.

The motion was then put and carried.

Thereafter, Members stood in silence for one minute as a mark of respect for the three deceased.

BILLS - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 4 - LICENCES (INCREASES OF DUTIES) BILL 1996 - Bill No. 1/1996 published 27.1.96

The Senior Minister of Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to
amend certain Acts.
(Read a first time on 29.1.96)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Dr. Kenneth King
Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

ITEM 5 - FISCAL ENACTMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1996 - Bill No. 2/1996 published 27.1.96

The Senior Minister of Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the
Income Tax Act and the Corporation Tax Act.
(Read a first time on 29.1.96)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Dr. Kenneth King
Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

8.

ITEM 6 - MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1996 - Bill No. 3/1996
published 27.1.96

The Senior Minister of Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the
Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act.
(Read a first time on 29.1.96)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Winston Murray
Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine
Mr. Manzoor Nadir,

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

MOTIONS

ITEM 7 - CONFIRMATION OF THE PURCHASE TAX (MOTOR VEHICLES) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 1996
(No. 1 of 1996)

The Senior Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with section 5A(5) of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Chapter 51:02, confirm the Purchase Tax (Motor Vehicles) (Amendment) Order 1996 (No. 1 of 1996), which was made on 19th January, 1996, under section 5A of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Chapter 51:02, and published in an Extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette dated 20th January, 1996.

(Notice Paper No. 93 (M73 Govt 60) published 29.1.96)

9.

Mr. Manzoor Nadir spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 8 - REPORTS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS FOR 1992 AND 1993

At the request of the Chairman, Public Accounts Committee, and with the leave of the Assembly, the following motion was deferred to Thursday, 14th March, 1996:-

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly adopt the Reports of the Public Accounts Committee on its Examination of the Public Accounts of Guyana for the years 1992 and 1993, which were laid in the National Assembly on 27th October, 1995, and refer them to the Government for consideration.

(Notice Paper No. 90 (M70) published 14.11.95)

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.50 p.m., the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, 14th March, 1996.



D.C. JAGAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

29th February, 1996.